

**Claims**

1. A method for determining regression, progression or onset of cancer, comprising contacting a biological sample isolated from a patient, who has or is suspected of having the cancer, with a protein or peptide that binds an antibody, wherein the antibody  
5 selectively binds a protein or peptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of SOX2 (SEQ ID NO:3), SOX1 (SEQ ID NO:4), ZIC2 (SEQ ID NO:5), SOX3 (SEQ ID NO:11), and SOX21 (SEQ ID NO:12), and determining the presence or level of the antibody as an indication of regression, progression or onset of the cancer.  
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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the sample is a body fluid, a body effusion or a tissue.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the sample is blood or serum.
- 15 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the protein or peptide that binds the antibody is a detectable protein or peptide.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the detectable protein or peptide is labeled with a radioactive label or an enzyme.  
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6. The method of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is SOX2 (SEQ ID NO:3).
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is SOX1 (SEQ ID NO:4).
- 25 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is ZIC2 (SEQ ID NO:5).
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is SOX3 (SEQ ID NO:11).
10. The method of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is SOX21 (SEQ ID  
30 NO:12).
11. The method of claim 1, wherein the sample is contacted with a plurality of proteins or

peptides that bind antibodies that selectively bind a plurality of proteins or peptides encoded by nucleic acid molecules selected from the group consisting of SOX2 (SEQ ID NO:3), SOX1 (SEQ ID NO:4), ZIC2 (SEQ ID NO:5), SOX3 (SEQ ID NO:11), and SOX21 (SEQ ID NO:12).

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12. The method of claim 11, wherein at least one of the plurality of proteins bound by the antibodies is encoded by ZIC2 (SEQ ID NO:5).

10 13. The method of claim 11, wherein at least two of the plurality of proteins bound by the antibodies are encoded by ZIC2 (SEQ ID NO:5) and SOX3 (SEQ ID NO:11).

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the cancer is small cell lung cancer.